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Notes on Brazilian seabirds, 2

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Little is known about seabirds in Brazilian waters. This report follows Teixeira *et al.* (1985) and records specimens in the Museu Nacional (Rio de Janeiro) (MNRJ), the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi (Belém) (MPEG) and 2 small regional collections which extend the known distribution of several species. Specimens are referred to by the name of each institution plus the respective catalogue number, if existent. English names and the sequence follow Meyer de Schauensee (1970).

Like almost all information available on seabirds in the Brazilian ornithological literature, the observations are based mainly on specimens deposited on beaches during bad weather. Higher mortality appears to occur along the Brazilian coast during the austral winter, but the specimens collected in 1984 were obtained throughout the year. This may be linked to the unusually severe weather predominant during most of 1984, which continued into the early months of 1985.

HOODED PETREL *Pterodroma incerta*

In Brazilian waters recorded only from the coast of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina (Murphy 1936, Pinto 1938, Belton 1978, 1984, Sick *et al.* 1981), north to c. 29°S, with a pelagic range to about 20°S (Harrison 1983). In 1984 MNRJ obtained an immature male (MN 33456; gonads 5 x 3 mm, 380 g, 420 mm total length) collected by Luiz P. Gonzaga (10 November) at Barra de Guaratiba, Rio de Janeiro (23°05'S, 43°35'W).

Quite extraordinarily, at least 3 *P. incerta* appeared in eastern Brazilian Amazonia in September 1984 at the lake forming behind the Tucuruí dam on the Rio Tocantins in the state of Pará (03°50'S, 49°45'W). The reservoir began to fill in August 1984 and the water level was still rising in March 1985. One male was collected on 15 September (MPEG 36492) and 2 other individuals on 27 September, only one of which was prepared as a specimen (MPEG 36493; female, ovary 12 x 5 mm, 380 g, 400 mm total length). All specimens were collected by Emílio Dente, and were reported to be in starving condition. Tucuruí is at least 400 km from the nearest open sea (Marajó Bay) and over 2000 km north of Rio de Janeiro. Although very surprising, such an inland record is not unheard of for a petrel – Hellmayr & Conover (1948) record a vagrant *P. arminjoniana* from Ithaca, New York State. Nevertheless, the appearance of several individuals is unique, and difficult to interpret. It would seem that regular seasonal movements of this species may take the birds much farther north from their breeding sites in Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island than has heretofore been recognized.

DOVE PRION *Pachyptila desolata*

Recorded in the Atlantic north to the coasts of Rio Grande do Sul, São Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro (Teixeira *et al.* 1985). However, there are at MNRJ a male (MN 33449; gonads 4 x 2 mm, 80 g, 656 mm total length) and a female (MN 33450; ovary 5 x 2 mm, 100 g, 620 mm total length) collected by Sônia Rigueira (July 1984) at Salvador, Bahia (13°00'S, 38°20'W). At least along the southern and southeastern Brazilian coasts, the Dove Prion and especially the Slender-billed Prion *P. belcheri* constitute the largest proportion of dead birds found on beaches after storms. Although pollution along the Brazilian coast is increasing, it seems that such mortality is a natural phenomenon (Teixeira 1985).

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Puffinus diomedea*

Recorded previously only off Bahia (Hellmayr & Conover 1948), Santa Catarina (Sick *et al.* 1981) and Rio Grande do Sul (Belton 1978 and 1984). An unsexed specimen at MNRJ (MN 32403) was collected by H. Nober da Cunha (20 July 1979) at the Restinga de Marambaia, Rio de Janeiro (23°05'S, 43°35'W). There are 2 unsexed birds (without number) in the Museu de Ciências Naturais, Recife, Pernambuco, which were collected (no date recorded) "off the coast, near Fernando de Noronha Island" (03°50'S, 32°24'W).

GREATER SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis*

Known previously only from Rio Grande do Sul (Pinto 1978, Belton 1978, 1984). A male with small gonads was collected at Búzios, Cabo Frio, Rio de Janeiro (22°45'S, 41°50'W) on 25 January 1985 (MN 33516; gonads 4 x 3 mm, 520 g, 510 mm total length). The ornithological collection of the Federal University of Paraíba also includes an unsexed skin (No 0002) collected 'on the coast' (c. 07°00'S, 34°50'W) by J. L. B. Albuquerque in July 1981.

BLACK-BELLIED STORM-PETREL *Fregetta tropica*

Recorded by Watson *et al.* (1971) off Fernando de Noronha (c. 00°, 30°W) and near São Pedro and São Paulo Rocks (c. 05°S, 30°W). This seems to be the first record for the genus in Brazilian waters – it has not been mentioned in recent Brazilian ornithological literature. (Pinto (1938) has included the White-bellied Storm-petrel *F. grallaria* in his 'Catalogo das Aves do Brasil', but apparently there are no substantiated records to support its inclusion in the Brazilian avifauna.)

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Known from Brazilian waters in coastal Amapá (Novaes 1974), Pará, Bahia and Rio de Janeiro (Pinto 1978, Teixeira *et al.* 1985). MPEG has an unsexed specimen collected at the fresh water Lago Agua Preta in the Utinga Reserve at Belém, Pará (01°27'S, 48°30'W) in a moribund state on 23 February 1968 (MPEG 28385). The species has frequently been recorded in the lower courses of rivers and at their mouths (Blake 1977); this seems to be the first record at an inland fresh water lake.

GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*

According to Cramp & Simmons (1983), the nominate race of the Great Skua ranges south 'at least to Brazil . . . but southern limits poorly known due to other races in South Atlantic'. MPEG houses a female *C.s. skua* collected in the municipality of Maracanã, Pará (c. 01°00'S, 47°30'W) on 3 January 1975 (MPEG 30875).

PARASITIC JAEGER *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The wide-ranging Parasitic Jaeger has been recorded from the interior of Brazil in Roraima, and also in coastal Rio Grande do Sul and Rio de Janeiro as a regular seasonal visitor (Blake 1977, Belton 1984, Sick 1968). MPEG has 2 specimens, one a juvenile light-phase, female, from Roraima, collected at Lago Curirú (= Lago Curimaú?, 00°10'S, 61°50'W) on 1 August 1964 by Antonio F. Netto (MPEG 31350); and Emilio Dente collected a juvenile dark-phase, male, with testes 5 x 3 mm, at the lake forming behind the Tucuruí dam on the Rio Tocantins in Pará (03°50'S, 49°45'W) on 12 December 1984 (MPEG 36558), which weighed 355 g and measured 470 mm total length. MNRJ has 2 skins from Guanabara Bay, Rio de Janeiro: one an unsexed juvenile light-phase (MN 31959), collected on 4 April 1978 by Teixeira and Gonzaga, and a dark-phase female (MN 33270), with small ovary (9 mm), collected on 10 May 1983 by Teixeira, Norma C. Maciel and J. B. Nacinovic, which weighed 480 g and measured 425 mm total length.

LEAST TERN *Sterna albifrons*

Although only recorded in Brazil along the northern coast from Amapá to Piauí, there is an unsexed specimen at MNRJ (MN 18846) which was collected by Fonseca and Travassos (no date) at Angra dos Reis, Rio de Janeiro

(23°00'S, 44°20'W); the species has also been recorded from Rio Grande do Sul (Ronaldo Novelli) and from Buenos Aires, Argentina (Blake 1977, Olrog 1978). Perhaps this tern occurs only very occasionally in such southern waters, but there may have been field misidentifications involving the very similar Yellow-billed Tern *S. superciliaris*, a rather common bird on these coasts.

CAYENNE TERN *Sterna eurygnatha*

The movements of the Cayenne Tern along the Brazilian coast are poorly understood (Harrison 1983). In early April 1983 mixed flocks of Royal Terns *S. maxima* and Cayenne Tern appeared at Algodual, municipality of Maracanã, Pará (1°00'S, 47°35'W). Cayenne Terns constituted about 15% of the individuals in these flocks, and 2 males were collected on 9 April (MPEG 34848 and 34849). The species has not been observed at this site at other times of the year.

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